Harold Weisberg
Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
9/16/74

Mr. John A. Walsh, Md. Ed.
Rolling Stone

Dear Mr. Walsh,

Paul Hoch, of Berkeley, currently temporarily in Shepherdstown, W.Va., made a submission to you of an article based on the content of the fourth of my Whitewash series of books. This book is currently in manufacture. I am informed that his initial approach specified confidentiality and that within the past few days he has written withdrawing the submission and asking for the preservation of confidentiality.

There is more you should know about this. Hoch made a total of four submissions, one to you. He is supposed to have written all four publications similar letters after he met with my lawyer/associate in this book, Jim Lesar. I was then out of town.

It happens that I approached Rolling Stone about this through Jon Newhall in June, at the latest early July. I had two interests, the sale of subsidiary rights and distribution of the book. I did not then know that your book affiliate does not have independent distribution. Jon told me he got nowhere with Rolling Stone.

This book represents about eight years of extensive and costly effort on my past. I did not originally plan it as a separate work. I wanted the material for another work some five or six chapters of which I had written three or more years ago and laid aside until I could obtain this material.Recently Lesar joined me in the effort. He handled the litigation that is a separate part of this book about to appear. He has written part of the book and shared in it. I am the publisher. The SBN number is 911606-07-6. Lesar has actually borrowed the money with which we paid the printer. So, we have more than the normal interest in the preservation of our rights.

When Rolling Stone had no interest I made approaches elsewhere for the sale of subsidiary rights. I await decision from two different media elements both of which have expressed interest, non-competitive interest. Thus any advance use of our work could be exceedingly hurtful and costly.

However, regardless of the outcome of my efforts to sell subsidiary rights, there remains much I believe could be of interest to you. You have a Washington representative only an hour from here. He is welcome to examine the complete work for you so that you may determine whether there are parts in which you might have an interest. Currently there is but an incomplete xerox and a single set of proofs that I have. Thus if I am able to complete the deals on which I am working I can still hold exclusively for you parts that may be of interest. Other and separate stories are possible, one dealing with the first chief Watergate prosecutor. What I have in mind might influence whether, having been renominated as United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, he is confirmed. He suborned perjury in this litigation. I took him on head-on, making my own submissions under oath to confront him with charging me with perjury or having to face the possibility of charges himself. This may be what prompted his mooting the matter or at least attempting to. It is by no means certain that this matter is ended.

What I have in mind, if it interests you, is what can be yours exclusively.

I caught Dan Schorr's report on your current article on the many break-ins this morning. I have not seen your piece. However, I can assure you that not all these break-ins were by the FBI. When I obtained what impelled me to produce this fourth of the Whitewash series I had almost completed the draft of The Unimpeachment of Richard Nixon. In it I do have suppressed official proofs. I also have other things along this line. One is the research for a book titled The Informers, a series of case studies.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg